

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 TRIPOLI 00396 01 OF 02 291146Z  
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-08 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01  
SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-13 OMB-01 TRSE-00 AID-05  
/095 W

-----291211Z 023064 /22

R 291036Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4192  
INFO AMEMBASSY CAIRO  
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY TUNIS  
AMEMBASSY VALLETTA  
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0396

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PINT, LY  
SUBJ: LIBYAN LEADERSHIP: NO POWER SHARING

REFS: TRIPOLI 0365 AND 0299 (NOTAL)

1. EVENTS IN LIBYA SINCE SEBHA PEOPLES CONGRESS INDICATE THAT QADHAFI HAS NOT DELEGATED ANY REAL AUTHORITY TO HIS CIVILIAN CABINET, AND THAT POLICY MAKING DECISIONS WILL CONTINUE TO BE MADE BY QADHAFI ALONE. HIS CLOSEST ASSOCIATES, WITH VARYING DEGREES OF INFLUENCE, CONTINUE TO BE THE REMAINING FORMER RCC OFFICERS AND OTHER, MORE OBSCURE, "FREE OFFICERS" WHO SEEM TO HAVE QADHAFI'S CONFIDENCE.

2. FORMER PRIMIN JALLUD HAS NOT BEEN DOWNGRADED--AT LEAST IN THE PUBLIC EYE. HE CONTINUES AS QADHAFI'S NUMBER ONE

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DEPUTY, ALTHOUGH HE PROBABLY HAS NO MORE AUTHORITY THAN WHEN HE WAS PRIME MINISTER. JALLUD CONTINUES TO ATTEND SUMMIT MEETINGS, HOSTS HEADS OF STATE, OPENS CONFERENCES, AND SITS AT QADHAFI'S SIDE ON PUBLIC OCCASIONS.

3. CURRENT STATUS FORMER RCC MEMBER KHAROUBI, ONLY

PROMINENT ARMY FIGURE WITH INDEPENDENT FOLLOWING, IS UNCERTAIN, BUT PROBABLY QUITE SIGNIFICANT. KHAIROUBI WAS MADE ARMED FORCES CHIEF OF STAFF LAST YEAR, BUT HIS AUTHORITY WAS CURTAILED BY QADHAFI BEFORE THE SEBHA CONFERENCE, AND HE HAS NOT BEEN IN EVIDENCE FOR SEVERAL WEEKS. RUMOR CIRCUIT VARIOUSLY HAS KHAIROUBI REMOVED FROM COS POSITION AND HOME POUTING, UNDER HOUSE ARREST, OR TRAVELLING IN CYRENAICA WHERE HE IS HIGHLY REGARDED. WITH RESUSCITATED RUMORS OF IMPENDING CONFISCATIONS, NATIONALIZATIONS, SHIFT TO SOCIALISM AT HOME AND TOWARDS EAST BLOC ABROAD, MANY LIBYANS LOOK TO KHAIROUBI AS ONLY MAN ON SCENE WHO CAPABLE CONTAINING QADHAFI OR PROVIDING ALTERNATE LEADERSHIP. BUT EGYPTIANS TELL US THESE HOPES WILL BE IN VAIN--IT HAS ALL HAPPENED BEFORE THEY SAY (WHEN THE WISHFUL THINKERS WERE THE EGYPTIANS) AND QADHAFI HAS ALWAYS SUCCEEDED IN BRINGING KHAIROUBI INTO LINE.

4. THE CABINET SECRETARIES CONTINUE PLAY ROLE OF QADHAFI'S EXECUTIVE AGENTS/ADMINISTRATORS. QADHAFI underscored his cabinet's subordinate status when he told Sebha Congress delegates that cabinet civilians really could not sit in on discussions of important national security matters--they were not "cleared," and, by implication, could not be expected to pass judgment or offer advice on such weighty matters.

5. ACCORDING WESTERN NEWSMAN WHO RECENTLY INTERVIEWED CHIEF CABINET OFFICER UBAIDI AND TOP LIBYAN FINANCE  
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OFFICIALS SAUDI (LIBYAN ARAB FOREIGN BANK) AND MISALLATI (CENTRAL BANK), THESE OFFICIALS COMPLAINED PRIVATELY THAT THEY WERE NOT EVEN PERMITTED TO MANAGE NATIONAL BUDGETS: OF THREE LIBYAN BUDGETS (REGULAR, DEVELOPMENT AND "SPECIAL"), THE FULL EXTENT OF THE "SPECIAL" BUDGET (WHICH INCLUDES MILITARY EXPENDITURES, ALLOCATIONS FOR FOREIGN "AID," AND AID TO LIBERATION GROUPS) IS COMPLETELY OUT OF THEIR HANDS. MISSALATI SPECULATED TO NEWSMAN THAT "SPECIAL" BUDGET EXPENDITURES COULD BE LARGER THAN THOSE FOR THE REGULAR BUDGET. MISSALATI SAID SPECIAL BUDGET IS FINANCED LARGEMLY BY FOREIGN EXCHANGE, BUT SINCE CENTRAL BANK HAS NO CONTROL OR EVEN GENERAL STATISTICS ON AMOUNTS INVOLVED, THEY COULD HARDLY HAVE A GOOD FIX ON LIBYAN CURRENT ACCOUNTS OR EVEN BALANCE OF PAYMENTS SITUATION. BOTH SAUDI AND MISSALATI ASSURED INTERVIEWER, HOWEVER, THAT THERE WAS NO SHORTAGE OF INCOME TO COVER LIBYAN EXPENDITURES, -LIBYA RECEIVED SOME EIGHT BILLION DOLLARS IN OIL

REVENUES LAST YEAR. BUT IT IS CLEAR THAT MANY AMONG LIBYA'S CIVILIAN ELITE QUITE OPENLY YEARN FOR A DIMINUTION OF QADHAFI'S AUTHORITY.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 TRIPOLI 0396

CINCEUR FOR POLAD

6. QADHAFI'S CIVILIAN OFFICIALS, TOGETHER WITH MOST LIBYANS, APPROVE OF CURRENT PACE AND DIRECTION ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND, TO LESSER DEGREE, A FIRM STANCE ON MIDEAST ISSUES. MANY ALSO ENJOY LIBYA'S INDEPENDENT AND MORE PROMINENT POSITION ON THE WORLD STAGE. BUT THEY ARE INCREASINGLY APPREHENSIVE OVER CONSTANT CONFRONTATIONS WITH OTHER ARABS, QADHAFI'S INSISTENCE ON HIS OWN INTERPRETATION OF ISLAM, TREND TOWARD CLOSER TIES WITH COMMUNIST COUNTRIES, INVOLVEMENT WITH FAR-FLUNG LIBERATION MOVEMENTS, WASTAGE NATIONAL PATRIMONY ON "AID" TO COUNTRIES AND GROUPS WHO WILL SUPPORT QADHAFI'S DREAMS OF WORLD INFLUENCE, AND HIGH LEVEL OF MILITARY SPENDING. THEY FEEL THAT QADHAFI'S MEGLOMANIA SHOULD NOT BE FUELED INDEFINITELY WITH LIBYA'S SINGLE IMPORTANT RESOURCE--A LIMITED ASSET WHICH MUST BE DEVOTED TO

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MORE ENDURING INVESTMENTS.

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## Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld  
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